(in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Fourteenth Lok Sabha):

1. Eighth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Coal;

2. Ninth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Mines; and

3. Tenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Steel.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Recent Developments in Nepal

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the entire House to the very serious developments that are taking place in our neighbouring country of Nepal.

Sir, we are all aware that the former Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Deuba, has been arrested very recently by the regime there. I would also like to draw your attention to the very shocking development, which has not been covered so much by the Indian media. One of the former Ministers of the earlier UML regime there, Shrimati Sadhana Pradhan, died day before yesterday. We had this incident where the security forces, some of whom were hooded, came and attacked those who had come to pay their last respects to Shrimati Sadhana Pradhan. They were attacked indiscriminately. The headquarters of the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) was also attacked. Since the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. External Affairs Minister are there, we are not saying that we should not engage with them, but the point is that battle for democracy which is going on in Nepal against Maoist extremist elements cannot be fought in this manner. The entire democratic forces have to be mobilised and India, given her tradition, her political position and her great role in the neighbourhood, should not be seen as supportive of a regime which is going berserk. I think, this has reached a stage where everybody in the neighbourhood and

in the whole world is watching us. Therefore, we would urge upon the Government that we should do everything possible to continue and engage with the Nepali regime, but we cannot afford to put all our eggs in the single diplomatic basket of the beleaguered regime that is there in Nepal who are out put in democracy. It will be good if the hon. External Affairs Minister could comment on it.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): As soon as we learnt about the arrest of the former Prime Minister, Shri Deuba, we have issued a very strong statement regretting it and deploring it. After His Majesty, the King's meeting with our Prime Minister and his meeting with me, he has given assurances that he would be unwinding the emergency, and that he would be releasing the remaining prisoners. I certainly named Mr. Nepal who has not been released. So far as the military aid is concerned, it is constantly under review and it will remain under review in view of what has happened. Soon after assuring us that he is going gradually to unwind the services of the Press, release prisoners and allow Indian TV channels to be shown in Nepal, he told us, I do not want to go into details, certain areas in which he wanted our help. As the House knows, our relationship with Nepal is unique. No Nepalese needs a passport to visit India and no Indian needs a passport to visit Nepal. Around six millions Nepalese are working in India and they are welcomed. The fact of the matter is that for the last three months the situation in Nepal deteriorated rapidly. There is a firm belief of the Government and, I think, of the whole House that Nepal needs both constitutional monarchy and democracy, and the Prime Minister and I both emphasised to the Majesty that he must restart the political process, meet all the political party leaders, and from there ensure that elections are held and Parliament is recalled and the Government is formed. To none of these, he said 'No'. He did say that he will take time in certain areas where he finds that Maoists activities are extreme and I will take the House into confidence. I do not want to go into details of it, but I want to say that it is a matter of very deep regret that when His Majesty, the King, goes back after his talks with the Prime Minister of India, the Foreign Minister of India and the UN Secretary-General, who expressed similar to His Majesty during his stay in China, an announcement is made that a person no less than a previous Prime Minister of Nepal is arrested on charges which are yet to be proved.

Our difficulty is...(*Interruptions*)... No, we have briefed all your leadership on this matter in great detail only before....

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: What I am saying is that funeral has been attacked.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I am just coming to that. Regarding the funeral of the lady you mentioned, I really don't have the details, but we will find out the details as to what has happened. I think, it is deplorable, and it is very sad indeed. Our difficulty is that because of the unique relationship with Nepal, because of being a sovereign country, our country is a huge country, has historical links with them, India had all the leverages; we have not used any of them. We want to resolve this in an amicable and friendly manner as we possibly can, so that democracy is restored, Maoists are contained, political process starts and the people of Nepal do not suffer in any way. That is our policy.

Alleged tapping of telephone of Chief Minister of a State

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद महोदय, मैं एक बहुत ही पीड़ा का सवाल उठा रहा हूं। एक राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री का यह वक्तव्य आना कि उनका टेलीफोन टेप हो रहा है, बहुत ही दुर्भाग्य की बात है।

(श्री उपसभापति पीठासीन हुए)

हम लोगों का संविधान पूरा फेडरल तो नहीं, लेकिन क्वेसी फेडरल है। मैं चाहता था कि प्रधानमंत्री जी यहां रहते और इस स्थिति की गंभीरता पर सोचते। यह एक सूबे, सबसे बड़े सूबे की बात है। यह कौंसिल ऑफ स्टेट है, यहां हम लोग अपने-अपने सूबे का रिप्रेजेन्ट करते हैं। अगर संविधान का ढांचा चरमरा जाए, किसी सूबे का मुख्यमंत्री यह मान ले कि उसका शासन चलाने में टेलीफोन टेप हो रहा है, तो यह गंभीर बात है। यह टेलीफोन के अंदर का विषय है। हम जानते हैं कि प्रधानमंत्री को इसकी जानकारी नहीं होगी, लेकिन इस पर वक्तव्य आना चाहिए और जांच होनी चाहिए। हम जानते हैं कि टेलीफोन टेप के कई केसिस पहले भी हो चुके हैं, हेगड़े साहब को तो एक बार इस्तीफा भी देना पड़ा था। पहले हमने पढ़ा कि अमर सिंह जी का टेलीफोन टेप हो रहा है, लेकिन जब मुख्यमंत्री जी का टेलीफोन टेप होने का सुना तो यह व्यवस्था, जिसमें हम स्वतंत्रतापूर्वक अपने कार्य का निष्पादन कर सकें, लगता है उसमें कहीं बाधा डाली जा रही है। एक इतने बड़े सूबे का मुख्यमंत्री यह बात बोल दे तब उसके लिए बहुत मुश्किलात की बात हो जाएगी। टेलीफोन टेप हो सकता है, शायद यह आपकी जानकारी में न हो, लेकिन यह सही है कि आपके खुफिया विभाग के एक पूर्व अधिकारी को वहां का राज्यपाल बना दिया। उसके काम करने का अपना ढंग हो सकता